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Director of Central Intelligence

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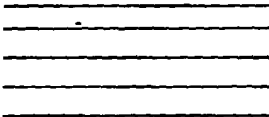


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SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan:

Coalition Headquarters Falls to the Taliban

The Taliban on Saturday captured its opponent's headquarters in Mazar-e Sharif, according to press reports. Anti-Taliban forces scattered after the defeat [redacted] *suggesting they were too disorganized to mount a counterattack despite their claims to have retaken the city.*

— With Dostam's National Islamic Movement and the Shi'ite Hizbi Wahdat in disarray, the Taliban yesterday attacked Masood—the third major coalition partner—north of Kabul, according to press reports.

— *Even if coalition forces can regroup, resupply will be problematic.* [redacted]

Iran yesterday accused the Taliban of entering its Consulate in Mazar-e Sharif and holding 11 diplomats, according to Iranian press reports. Tehran asked Islamabad to secure the release of its personnel and said Pakistan, which supports the Taliban, would be held responsible for their safety.

[redacted] [redacted]

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